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Weather Forecast

Saturday

High:35
Low:9

Today

High:41
Low:10

Sunday

High:33
Low:11

FRIDAY

Fort Riley

Post

This Week On In Step

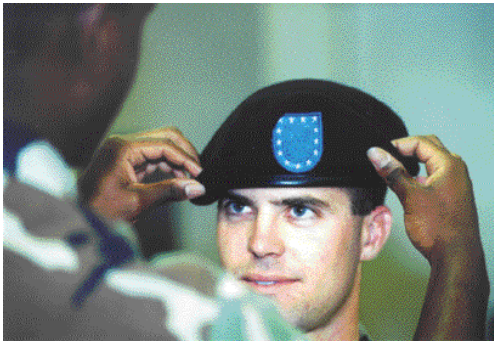
The show will include Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commander 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, press conference with the local news media, the National Prayer Breakfast held at Riley's and the Fort Riley Honor Guard.

The show airs on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on FOX 43.



Post/Chadwick

Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz accepted the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley colors from III Corps Commander B.B. Bell. Outgoing commander was Maj. Gen. Robert St. Onge, Jr.



Post/Skidmore

On Aug. 16, every battalion-sized unit on Fort Riley conducted a beret donning ceremony signifying the Army's transformation.



Post/Skidmore

Fort Riley's Honor Guard marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in the first Inaugural Parade of the millennium. This was the first time the unit ever participated in such an event. The unit was the sole representative of Kansas in the parade.

2001 Year In Review

JANUARY

Brigade begins Gauntlet

All of the pieces were together and the battles had begun for the 30-day exercise known as Gauntlet.

Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, and its support units, hit the field Jan. 3.

The goal of the field training exercise was to help the 1st BCT and its attached elements, effectively prepare to fight and win battles at the February National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, Calif., which will in turn prepared them for real world situations.

Army develops slogan

To "Be all you can be" in the Army now means being "An Army of One."

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera announced the new Army slogan, which underscores the importance of individuals in a unified effort and unveiled a new Army logo, a white star superimposed over a yellow star. The first slogan for the all-volunteer Army was "Today's Army wants to join you." This was in 1973 by "Join the people who've joined the Army," which evolved into a short-lived "This is the Army." "Be all you can be" first appeared in 1981.

Housing manager wins award

Housing Management Association Outstanding Senior Housing Manager Award for the Army. The PHMA is an organization with the purpose of improving professionalism of military housing and its staff.

Working for Fort Riley's Housing Office for 23 years, Williams was presented with the award Jan. 25, at a PHMA Professional Development Seminar in Louisville, Ky.

Education funding changed

Soldiers wanting more money for higher education had to report to their local education center. The Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvements Act of 2000, offered soldiers and their family members new options to fund higher education. One big change allowed those who are enrolled with Veterans Education Assistance Program to convert to the much more generous Montgomery GI Bill.

VEAP is the education program designed for post-Vietnam era soldiers. The new law provided another window for VEAP-era soldiers to convert to MGIB and it allows them to convert even if their account was inactive in 1996.

Soldiers trained for new MOS

Army medics took up a new challenge. Soldiers from two different Military Occupational Specialties were training for a new

"hospital medics. 91Bs have typically have been know as "super medics" or field medics, assigned to infantry, armor and Ranger battalions. The 91Cs have typically been known in the past as those who work in the hospital. Those going through the classes learned patient extrication, medications and other trauma-related classes.

MPs conduct training

Military Police from the 977th and 300th MP Companies trained to react to civil unrest and weapons of mass destruction. Initial training involved classes on posse comitatus, search and seizure, apprehension and detention and force protection.

Color Guard

Fort Riley's Mounted Honor Guard rode into history Jan. 21 in the nation's Capitol as they participated in the Inaugural Parade for President George W. Bush, the 43rd president of the United States. It was the first time this cavalry unit has been invited to the elite event. The CGMCG was the only participant representing Kansas in the parade and one of only three military horse units, which made its way down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House on the historic day.

FEBRUARY

Color Guard meets state leaders

St. Onge, former commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) and Fort Riley and the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard. Members of the color guard were honored for their selection to represent Kansas and Fort Riley in Washington at the Presidential Inaugural Parade in January. Graves was photographed with the color guard, including their mounts on the steps of the Capitol building. Chap. (Col.) Daniel Paul, command chaplain, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, delivered the prayer on the floor of the legislative chamber. State legislators who have served in the military were called on to come forward and be recognized for their service. Graves signed a proclamation declaring the day Kansas Armed Forces Appreciation Day, while Kansas military leaders looked on.

Fort Riley provided an informational display in the Rotunda for legislators and other government leaders to learn more about the post.

Local Korean veteran received medal

One day, a fellow churchgoer approached 82-year-old Ernest Prince and said, "Hey Ernie. I've got my medal."

The medal the man referred to was the Republic of Korean War Service Medal. The medal was initially offered to U.S. veterans of the Korean War more than 50 years ago, but it was never issued. More than eight months ago, the

on a stretcher, had served during the war during two tours and he knew he deserved the medal. "Our unit's greatest ambition was to assist the Korean people," said Prince, a retired sergeant first class who lives in Junction City.

Soldiers help build home

The 977th Military Police Company visited Ogden on Feb. 17, and let loose with what sounded like small arms fire. But the volley of fire that the 977th was releasing was not coming from their trusty pistols. The sound came from the impact of hammers on wood. The 977th was invading Ogden to assist in the building of a home for Habitat for Humanity.

When asked what he thought of making such a racket so early in the morning, said Sgt. Ryan Anderson, team leader, from Nashville, Tenn., "Although the pounding of our hammers sounds like a firing squad, it is a good sound. We are actually accomplishing something for our community."

"These soldiers are all volunteers. They have come out here on this cold morning to give something back to the community. I am very proud of each and everyone of them," said Capt. Todd Schroeder, commander, 977th MP Co., from Milwaukee, Wis.

MARCH

Hazardous driving con-

chief of staff, safety was the driving factor when the decision was made to close the installation due to weather hazards.

"Whenever we do anything in regards to the post, whether it's a delay for reporting to work in the morning or closing the installation, the factors that go into the decision are pretty much based on the conditions of the post regarding safety, not only safety for our soldiers, but safety for our civilian employees," said Bero. "A lot of our employees live great distances away from here on less than major road networks."

Lt. Col. Wes Anderson, director of Public Works, said the process for delaying reporting to work or closing post because of weather begins with the Military Police patrolling Fort Riley. "The MPs begin the process by notifying the Fort Riley Operations Center when the roads begin to get slippery," said Anderson. "The FROC calls Public Works and like during this last storm, we called out the 568th Engineer Company to begin sanding and salting bridges."

Anderson said after normal duty hours, the 568th Eng. Co. is called upon first to help keep costs to a minimum, and as a way to help keep the roads passable until Public Works personnel can report to work and begin assisting the engineers in their efforts.

Brigade concludes NTC

The 1st Brigade Combat Team has had soldiers on the ground in

2001 Year In Review

ield.

“We came out asking for a ough rotation-as tough as they ould give us,” said Col. James Milano, commander, 1st BCT. ‘No matter how good you think ou are, you’re not as good as you hink you are. We came out here vanting to learn how to do our obs better, and we were very eceptive.”

Devil Brigade soldiers had many opportunities to learn how o do their jobs better. Training as been almost nonstop since hey arrived at the National Train- ing Center.

“Soldiers have been busting heir butts,” Milano said, “and I’m roud of them. It was a huge suc- ess from all the learning that ook place.” Milano said the BCT was very successful during the orce-on-force and live-fire bat- les as well as with maintenance and logistical support.

According to Maj. Mike Bell, rigrade adjutant, Devil Brigade oldiers won four of the five bat- les against the OPFOR.

MP squads compete

Squads from the 300th Military olice Company conducted the nnual Law Enforcement Com- mand Squad Competition March ' -8. The purpose of the competi- ion was to assess potential sol- iers who will compete in the War ightler Competition at the MP orps that is held at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The more physically demand- ing aspects of the LEC Squad ompetition included a physical itness test, a 10-mile road march and a timed-execution of Fort Riley’s obstacle course, said Capt. onathan Pontius, officer in harge of the obstacle course.

On March 7, three squads, of ight soldiers each, from the 00th MP Company went through he course. Spec. Jarod Farnham, ne of the competitors said he ew how demanding the course ould be. “We’re standing here ow a little chilly and shivering,” ie said, “but when we get through vith the course we’ll look like we ust came out of the gas chamber.” fe equated going through the ource like doing the PT test in ive minutes.

937th wins retention award

The 937th Engineer Group was awarded Fort Riley’s retention ward for fiscal year 2000. By

keeping 110 percent of its eligible members, the Group’s career counselors edged past 1st Brigade in retention efforts.

“It’s not that we really did that much better than any other group,” said SFC Mike LeMire, senior career counselor. “We bare- ly beat out 1st Brigade, but it is nice to be recognized for our efforts.”

All of Fort Riley’s units made or exceeded their missions.

“The command climate around here is outstanding,” said LeMire. “The group commander is extremely involved in every aspect of retention and keeping good soldiers in the Army. It does- n’t all happen here in this office. If a soldier isn’t happy in his unit, then they are not going to re- enlist, no matter what we do.”

The sergeant major is also very involved with the soldiers, said LeMire. He interviews soldiers whose name he remembers from the retention list.

“Our mission is to keep about 30 percent of initial entry soldiers in and by keeping 110 percent we, obviously, kept a much larger number,” said LeMire. “We know that there is a certain percent that will get out, but we do our best to counsel every soldier who comes in here on all their options.”

Fort Riley celebrated women’s history

Army Reserve Maj. Gena Bonini was a young lieutenant when she packed her bags and headed for Saudi Arabia more than 10 years ago. Her forward support battalion would deploy her to support a maneuver battal- ion from one of the more tradi- tional and historical units of the U.S. Army, the 1st Cavalry Divi- sion.

She was one of several officers assigned to battalions as “log overwatch” officers, a position that requires a logistics officer to provide instantaneous communi- cations with division in the event any logistical issues need immedi- ate attention.

“I remember when my boss told the maneuver guy that he was going to assign me as the log overwatch officer. My boss said something like, ‘Sorry she’s a female, but that’s all I’ve got.’ I just smiled at that,” Bonini said. “

Throughout the history of our nation, women like Bonini have played a pivotal role in bringing about positive change to Ameri- can life.

“Women’s History Month hon-

ors the women who made these accomplishments possible, secur- ing their rightful place in history among those who have made our country great,” according to Fort Riley’s Women’s History Month proclamation signed by Col. Philip Pope, garrison comman- der.

More than 26,000 women served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, accord- ing to the U.S. Army Center for Military History. Women accounted for 17 percent of Army reservists in Saudi Arabia at the height of the conflict. All told, women represented more than 8.6 percent of the Army’s deployed force, and Desert Storm would be the largest deployment of military women in U.S. histo- ry.

APRIL

Tank lands at Fort Polk

A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globe- master III cargo plane sitting at the Manhattan Regional Airport is like a whale in a fish tank. When Fort Riley wanted a faster way to rapidly deploy heavy equipment, they turned to the Manhattan Air- port manager and he offered the airport’s facilities. The Manhattan airport was able to handle two of these 174-foot aircraft that weigh nearly half a million pounds when loaded with armor vehicles. Fort Riley loaded M1A1 Abrams Tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M88s (recovery vehicles) onto these aircraft.

Until the C-17s, the largest plane to visit Manhattan were 727s, which weigh about 185,000 pounds.

On April 2-4, Air Force Capt. Eric Wittendorfer and other C-17 pilots airlifted vehicles and troops to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

“We’re doing two heavy lifts per day using two C-17s,” said Maj. John Norris, operations offi- cer for 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. Norris added that this method of deploying “puts Fort Riley on the map in terms of rapid deployment ability. We can augment and rein- force any force - anywhere in short notice.”



Post/Chadwick

During the 3rd Brigade’s rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., soldiers of the 125th Forward Support Battalion were kept on their toes during continued assaults to the Brigade Support Area.

March 19, was the first time an M1A1 Abrams Tank ever flew out of Manhattan.

“The challenges in flying into a small airport or airfield is looking for obstacles and hazards,” said Air Force Maj. Patrick Silvia, the- ater airlift liaison officer at Fort Riley. “Larger airports are built for larger aircraft,” he said.

Despite the short runway, it doesn’t pose a problem for the C- 17 as these huge aircraft are capa- ble of taking off and landing on runways as short as 3,500 feet.

Gunner mechanic wins award

A mechanic from each of the six maintenance sections in the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, competed for ‘Top Wrench.’

Spec. Brendan Daly represent- ing the battalion maintenance sec- tion earned top honors for second quarter, FY 2001.

CWO2 Fritzroy Francis, battal- ion maintenance technician, and

MSgt. John Archambault, battal- ion motor sergeant, recently developed the competition to improve morale around the motor pool and to determine the top all- around soldier serving in a mechanic MOS in the unit.

“Our mechanics work as hard as any group of soldiers I’ve had the pleasure of serving with in my 24 years in the Army,” said Archambault. “We simply wanted to find a way to recognize the best mechanics in our battalion each quarter.”

This quarter’s event featured six soldiers who completed a mechanic’s in-ranks inspection, five hands-on stations, a compre- hensive written test, individual weapon qualification and an Army Physical Fitness Test. The motor sergeants from the battal- ion’s maintenance sections served as evaluators for the competition.

Medics aimed for expertise

Soldiers battled enemy sniper

fire, drugged muddy trenches and scaled six-foot walls hoping they had what it takes to earn the cov- eted “symbol of excellence” — the Expert Field Medical Badge.

A total of 163 soldiers, typical- ly combat medics, from Fort Riley, Topeka, Fort Sam Houston and North Carolina, endured a week of training in anticipation for the final tests

The candidates challenged themselves through seven endur- ing lane tests, a 100-question written test and a final 12-mile foot march.

“The Expert Field Medical Badge is the second highest badge in the Army,” said Maj. Scott Car- penter, officer in charge.

Children celebrated with parade

Clangs, bangs and brightly col- ored streamers filled the air as children and their parents paraded down the street in front of the Child Development Center April

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2001 Year In Review

i. The annual event kicks-off Fort Riley's Celebration of Month of the Military Child.

"We have a parade because we can take advantage of getting outside in the nice weather with the kids and their parents and kicking off the whole Month of the Military Child," said Nikki Crisman, CDC director. It promotes family togetherness and allows the kids and parents to be together."

About 150 parents took time off to come to the parade. Crisman said one of the goals of the event is to bring attention to the needs of today's children and give parents an opportunity to spend time with them.

"I think Month of the Military Child makes us stop and recognize the children and how special they are," said Crisman. "It's good that the military celebrates it for a whole month because this time of year, usually everything is kind of slow and the parents have the time to spend quality time with their children when they can."

Post began vehicle registration May 1

Vehicle registration stickers became the norm here as the Provost Marshal Office prepared to register all vehicles starting May 1.

"We want this to be an organized and simple procedure," said

Maj. Dave Lewis, deputy provost marshal.

"We estimate the requirement to be about 48,000 vehicles," said Col. Victor Bero, former chief of staff.

Four specific documents are required to register:

- Military Identification Card or another form of picture ID (for non-military registrants).
 - Valid state drivers license.
 - Proof of Liability insurance.
- A current automobile insurance identification card will suffice.
- Current state vehicle registration in the registrant's or the registrant's spouse's name for the vehicle(s) requiring registration.

Fort Riley named 'Tree City USA'

The National Arbor Day Foundation has named Fort Riley a Tree City USA. It was the 14th year the installation has received this national recognition.

"We are in this effort to improve our living environment for the long haul," said John Barbur, management agronomist for the Directorate of Environment and Safety. "This Tree City recognition shows that Fort Riley is meeting its goal of improving the urban forest environment for its soldiers, families, employees and the public."

The installation fulfilled four standards to receive the recogni-

tion: a tree board, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance. In 2000, the installation spent \$261,000 to plant new trees, prune existing ones and remove old and hazardous trees. More than 2,500 trees received some type of work such as planting or pruning, while over 9,600 received protection from pests.

The National Arbor Day Foundation sponsors the Tree City USA program in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. The nonprofit foundation is dedicated to tree planting and environmental stewardship.

Post enforced noise regulations

As the weather got nicer, more people enjoyed spending time outdoors. Some enjoyed a day at McCormick Park or the Softball Complex and others cruised around with their car windows rolled down. Whether at the park listening to music or cruising the hill pumping the beats, when enjoying the weather it is important to follow the commanding general's guidelines on excessive noise.

"When people play their music too loud, it infringes on other persons' right to privacy and quiet and can easily escalate to con-

frontations, which benefit no one," former division and post commander, Maj. Gen. Robert St. Onge, Jr., stated in policy letter 12-4.

"As a general rule, if someone complains that music is too loud, the recipient of that complaint is responsible for lowering the volume to an acceptable level. This applies to permanent structures like barracks, family quarters, and work areas, motor vehicles as well as in public areas," said St. Onge in the policy letter.

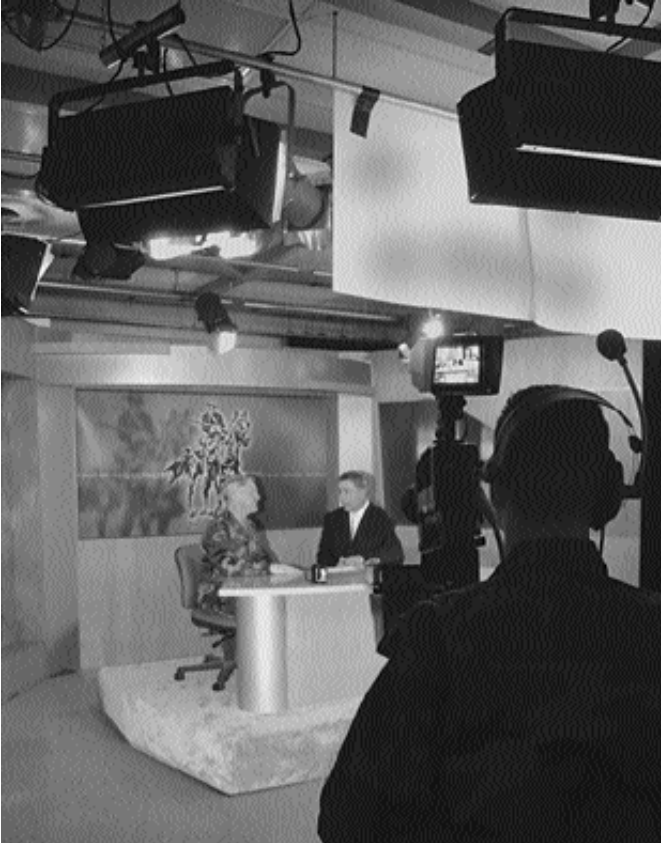
There are obvious exceptions to this guidance, such as "unit parties, organization days, pep rallies, music played before battalion/brigade runs, at ceremonies, etc."

Expert medics cross line

Just before the lone silhouette topped the hill, a hush fell over the crowd of family, friends and fellow soldiers gathered to cheer on soldiers attempting to attain the elusive Expert Field Medical Badge.

Many gathered near Long Gym April 20 during the final test, a 12-mile foot march that would determine which soldiers would earn the prestige they sought.

In the lead by nearly a mile ahead of all the other candidates, 1st Lt. Brian Stogdill, 82nd Medical Company, not only earned the



Post/Pritchett

Fort Riley became the first installation in the Department of Defense to broadcast a weekly news program on a commercial station. In Step with Fort Riley made its debut Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. The program features local news, guest interviews and features different aspects of Fort Riley each week.

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Post/Vanover

Just after sunrise Aug. 13, one of the world’s largest aircraft, a C-5 Galaxy, with a wingspan of nearly 223 feet, engulfed Forbes Air Field in Topeka as four of 82nd Medical Company’s Blackhawks were loaded into the cargo area of the aircraft. The members of the unit and their Blackhawks were deployed to Southwest Asia.

EFMB and the roar of an anxious crowd when he topped that rise, he also earned the distinction of Honor Graduate for his performance.

Though he was far ahead of the next nearest candidate, Stogdill was far from alone on his trek toward the badge. He set out alongside 152 other soldiers with medical specialties two weeks ago on a grueling course of training before the actual tests began.

Most of his comrades had already fallen away before the march began. Twenty-eight eligible soldiers started out on the march-only 26 finished. At a 17 percent pass-rate Fort Riley is just behind the Army average of 18 percent. The first female to cross the line was 2nd Lt. Brenda Mancini. Others who earned the badge were: Spec. Jason Rodriguez, Cpl. Joshua West, SSgt. Michael Malone, PFC Nathan Martin, Spec. Jason Wiedenmyer, Sgt. Robbi Smith, SSgt. Brandie Dietrich, 1st Lt. Jeremiah Heller, Spec. Lorenzo Jaenz, SSgt. Sidney Watson, 1st Lt. Robin Ukleya, Sgt. Mauricio Rodriguez, SSgt. Curtis Minard, Spec. Megan Allen, Spec. Javier Jimenez, PFC Jeremiah Johnson, 2nd Lt. Mark Samman, Spec. Troy Proctor, Spec. William Cunningham, PFC Joshua Soldato, Spec. Jeremy Puryear, PFC Chris Skidmore, 2nd Lt. Aleksey Cascoiguero and 1st Lt. Scott Brown.

MAY

Fort Riley names volunteer of the year

Catherine E. Kaderavek couldn't believe her ears when her name was read aloud as the Fort Riley Volunteer of the Year during the post's Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony. "I was shocked and dumbled when my name was read out loud," she said. "I couldn't wait to get home to call my mom back in Massachusetts."

Kaderavek, who is a volunteer with 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, said that she didn't really think that she had a chance at winning the award since, "I always have the feeling that I could do even more."

Kaderavek, whose husband, Robert, commands HHC, volunteers with the Family Readiness Group, the Meals on Wheels program, the battalion's coffee group and organizes functions such as the unit's Halloween and Easter parties. She added that in addition to volunteering for unit related "opportunities," she also volunteers at the Armed Services YMCA in Junction City and in her local church.

She said that one of the main reasons she began volunteering at the "Home of America's Army" is to help keep people informed. She related that the biggest challenge facing volunteers in the line units is keeping everybody in the information loop and involved, especially when the unit is deployed.

"Fort Riley is one of the best places in the Army for families. It is Army's hidden jewel," Kaderavek said. "We here on post enjoy tremendous support from the surrounding communities and K-State."

"Mrs. Kaderavek strongly demonstrated that to make any community better, its members need to get involved and make a contribution," said Pearl Speer, the post's Relocation and Family Readiness Program manager. "She demonstrates that if you look for things that need to be accomplished and do your part, everyone wins," said Speer.

"I love the Army and the challenges that come with a life in the military," Kaderavek said. "My husband always jokes that I love the military more than he does."

"Volunteering is one of the most important jobs there is," Kaderavek said. "There is no other job that is so important for the greater good or has more value."

Pro wrestlers squared off at King Field House

Eight Time NWA World Champion Harley Race brought his World League Wrestling to Fort Riley's King Field House May 19. WLW showcased some of the top athletes in professional wrestling. Holding events across the Midwest, WLW has been in operation for two years. It is an event that is suitable for all ages. "Our motto is 'Shut Up and Wrestle,'" said Race, the chairman of WLW. "This is a show that you can take your grandmother or your children to without being embarrassed."

Headlining the card will be former WCW Tag Team Champion and current WLW World Heavyweight Champion "Hacksaw" Butch Reed defending his world title against rising star Bull Schmitt. A pair of former WCW Tag Team Champions were also in the competition, as the Harris Brothers (DOA in WWF) squared off with the Drill Instructor (former Marine) and former WLW World Heavyweight Champion Trevor Rhodes.

The Ladies of WLW saw action as Che' Physique battled Miss Natural. Members of the Gold Exchange competed in singles

competition with their manager Johnny Gold.

Stakes tested soldiers

For nearly two weeks, soldiers of the 937th Engineer Group faced a gauntlet requiring all their skills and testing their stamina. Each squad spent two days alone in the wilderness, fighting off opposition that attacked at every turn. Their enemies stalked them even in the darkness, challenging the teams to take a stand. In the harsh reality of daybreak, these troops faced one final daunting task-the long march home and with it a chance at victory.

During the 12-day Squad Stakes competition, two teams entered the lanes for a day-long march that included land navigation, breaching an obstacle, reacting to direct and indirect fire and establishing a defensive position. Sapped of strength and tired from the nighttime operations, teams capped day two with a six-mile foot march home.

"This is hard stuff," said Capt. Jeremy McVey, of the 937th Engineer Group.

"I did this last year when I was a specialist," said Sgt. Douglas Howell of the 977th MP Company. "It is a totally different experience for me because this year I have a lot more responsibilities and duties than I did last year."

Maintenance teams awarded

For three companies on Fort Riley, keeping a high maintenance level paid off. Annually, Fort Riley evaluates competing companies for the Army Maintenance Excellence Award. To win the highly coveted award, these companies have to be very proficient.

"In competing, the company must first create a book describing several things," said CW4 Floyd Henderson, G-4 maintenance technician. "They must include their readiness data, inspection awards, field training they have done and basically anything they have done as far as exercises and deployments go," he said.

"All companies are broken up in three categories based on how large their equipment density and personnel strength are. The winners in the light category were Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 541st Maintenance Battalion. For the intermediate category, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 937th Engineer Group took that award. And 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery took the heavy category," said

Henderson.

"It may sound simple, but the system of preparation, evaluation and notification was a very long process," he said.

Sarge comes to Fort Riley

The Army's famous dragster visited Fort Riley May 23 before the Advance Auto Parts, National Hot Rod Association Nationals at Heartland Park Topeka May 24-27.

The black and gold, speed machine, driven by Tony "the Sarge" Schumacher, was in seventh place in the top fuel point standings at the time of the visit, and was the 1999 champion and 2000 runner-up.

Although he proudly wears the Army's name and the chevrons of a noncommissioned officer, "the Sarge" never served in the Army. Schumacher will interact with Fort Riley's soldiers May 23 and get a view of Army life during a motor pool tour and live fire demonstration.

Monitoring post entrances begins

Changes came to Fort Riley. The Department of Defense directed that all posts begin monitoring traffic at their gates in a move to tighten security. Soldiers, family members, Department of the Army civilians and retirees were required to register their vehicles. The general public will only be able to acquire a visitor's pass for the day in order to enter the post. Eventually, guards will be posted at the gates to check the traffic flow and limit the admittance of those without registration decals.

According to Maj. Melvin Hull, from the Fort Riley G-3 office, the installation went to this posture to provide a more safe and secure work environment for the civilians and military personnel who live and work on Fort Riley.

"The main effect is that you will no longer be able to just drive through post between Manhattan and Junction City," said Hull. "This will allow us to cut down on traffic on post and to increase our security," he said.

Although the installation went to a more secure posture, civilians were still welcome to use the post's golf course, other recreational outlets and continue to take advantage of the fort's excellent hunting resources. However, unless visitors are card carrying Department of the Army civilians, military retirees, family members of active duty soldiers or active duty soldiers, visitors to Fort Riley will be stopped at the gates

and asked to obtain a pass before entering the installation.

Seabees received training at Fort Riley

Part time Seabees honed their combat and crew-serve weapons skills at Fort Riley May 17-20. The BEES trained on various weapons while alternating through a round robin scenario of perimeter defense, land navigation and Combat Operation Center functions. NMCB15 is headquartered in Belton, Mo., where it maintains command and control of 10 detachments in five states.

"Belton is well suited for our weekend drilling site, but does not afford enough room for military training," stated Commander Christopher Jennison. "The battalion rotates through yearly cycles of military, technical and construction training. The unit maintains its construction support equipment and facilities while training Seabees. Fort Riley is a perfect sight for training. It has multiple resources and is located near the center of the battalion area of operations, which makes it more cost effective to bring the troops for training," Jennison added.

JUNE

Firefighters battle blaze

Fort Riley Firefighters responded to a fire alarm on Custer Hill May 30 to extinguish a blaze in the rear portion of Bldg. 7233, barracks belonging to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade and HHC, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry. The fire was reported at 2:40 p.m. and the first three vehicles were on the scene within three minutes. The fire was contained to the rear portion of the building and was fully extinguished at 4:11 p.m. It was determined that the building was uninhabitable for the night and soldiers were housed within the brigade for the evening. No soldiers or firefighting personnel were injured.

Students visit armor unit

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor took a break from their daily tasks of vehicle maintenance and field training May 17, to talk to Fort Riley's youth. For two days, students from Fort Riley Elementary School visited with the school's sponsor unit viewing vehicles, personnel and equipment used in daily operations.

"We have set up all of our vehicles and equipment we use to complete our missions, and we bring the children down here so they can see all of it," said 1st Lt. Bart Ritchey S-2, HHC, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor.

A scout HMMWV with soldiers in full camouflage showed the students some of the equipment they use to seek out and spy on the enemy. As they moved down the line, the children were also shown the mortar platoon, support platoon, medics and the M1A1 Abrams tank.

"Another popular stop for the students is inside where we have a tent set up that's nice and dark inside. We set up an NVG (night vision goggles) display, and we have maps and popup targets in there and they can see how we use it," said Ritchey. "It gives them a better concept of what we do and how we function at night."

Infantrymen aimed for top

Soldiers trudged from one station to the next through mud and muck loaded down with weapons and rucksacks. Some soldiers went over very familiar tasks, while others were acquiring certain skills for the first time. For two weeks, infantry soldiers from 1st and 3rd Brigades trained for their ultimate challenge-the Expert Infantryman Badge.

There were more than 30 tasks the soldiers had to pass. If they made one mistake, it could mean they have to wait a whole year before they can try again for the coveted badge. Soldiers faced many obstacles during the actual week of competition. From break-

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Gun show

2001 Year In Review

ance Battalion, 924th Military Police Battalion (Provisional), 1st Finance Battalion, 1st Personnel Services Battalion and 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), oldiers give their vote of confidence.

Recon team wins award

It is hard for a new unit to gain respect. For one unit to go from formation to award winning in a year says something about the determination of the unit. The 1st Brigade Reconnaissance Team earned that respect winning the Draper Award as the outstanding Armor unit on post. The unit is core on gunnery, weapons qualification, physical training, how many Uniform Code of Military Justice cases they had, as well as the status of their family readiness group and other external evaluations.

Club changes name

On June 1, the Fort Riley Officers' Wives' Club was officially renamed Officers' and Civilian Spouses' Club. The organization, which has historically provided social, volunteer and leadership opportunities for women, is broadening its membership to include civilian employees and spouses of civilians who work on post. The name change was implemented by the group's board of directors. Officers' wives have come to value the organization because it offers them opportunities to meet new people and to use their skills in a meaningful way. For instance, this past year OCSC members distributed \$12,000 to local organizations.

Fort Riley soldiers don beret

Soldiers throughout Fort Riley stood at attention with pride as they took off their traditional Battle Dress Uniform caps and replaced them with the new Army standard-the black beret. Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army chief of

staff, announced that the black beret would become the Army standard. Every battalion-sized unit on Fort Riley held beret-donning ceremonies Aug. 16, signifying the Army's transformation into a new force. Fort Riley's Big Red One soldiers were the first in their division to don their berets. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade held a ceremony at the 1st Infantry Division Memorial Park across from brigade headquarters.

Remains found in building

A set of human remains found on Fort Riley Aug. 27 was identified as Scott A. Nichols, 18. Nichols was the son of SSgt. John English of the 24th Transportation Company. Nichols' remains were sent to the State of Kansas Medical Examiner's Office in Topeka. Positive identification was made through dental records. The preliminary cause of death was deemed carbon monoxide poisoning.

The remains were discovered in the garage area of an on-post family quarters located on Burnside Loop. The quarters were destroyed by fire Feb. 4. A contractor found the remains while cleaning up the site.

A pre-dawn fire, Feb. 4, started in the garage of Quarters # 1 and spread to two adjacent quarters. Quarters # 2 suffered fire damage and Quarters # 3 had minor smoke damage.

Damages to the quarters were estimated at \$104,000. No foul play is suspected. The matter is under investigation by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.

SEPTEMBER

MPs prepare for deployment

Deployments are serious business and last week the 977th Military Police Company got serious about deploying. The MPs spent four days conducting a Certifica-

tion Exercise in preparation for their deployment. The CERTEX is an exercise that is designed to ensure the soldiers who are deploying are appropriately trained for the theater they are traveling to and meet the standards for the missions they will be expected to handle once there, according to MSgt. Anthony Hallenbeck, operations sergeant for the 977th.

The exercise consisted of four lanes in various locations throughout Fort Riley. Each lane was a setting for different types of missions such as convoy operations, area security, traffic regulation and enforcement and critical site security with scenarios changing about every two hours, said Hallenbeck.

The scenarios developed by the 924th Military Police Battalion S-3 office were implemented by the rest of the battalion as a joint effort to train up the 977th for deployment. The lane training began early in the morning and continued non-stop throughout the day in order to simulate the proper conditions.

Armor unit hosts family day

The Multipurpose Range Complex, home of the Dreadnaughts of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor for training, served up some quality time to their families during family day. Family day provided a welcome break for the soldiers, who were in the middle of their training cycle. The soldiers were in the middle of qualifying. Families enjoyed the opportunity to not only see their fathers and husbands at work, but also to see where they live during their time in the field. They toured the barracks at the MPRC and were treated to music and a meal.

Post prepared

Despite the tragic attacks at the Pentagon and World Trade Center Sept. 11, Fort Riley and the 24th Infantry Division



Post/Skidmore

Thadeus Patterson, fifth grader at Morris Hill Elementary School, tied flags to the school's fence along with other students and teachers. Students hand-colored their own flags, which were laminated into a giant banner in honor of the victims of the terrorist attacks that took place in Washington D.C. and New York City on Sept. 11.

(Mech.) continued the mission of providing training, readiness and deployment support for its two brigade combat teams and engineer group. Approximately 3,100 Fort Riley soldiers were deployed to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., to improve their war-fighting skills.

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team were preparing for this rotation for almost a year, culminating with their field exercise entitled Gauntlet in July. The rotation lasted about one month.

Approximately 1,200 soldiers of Task Force 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, who deployed to Kuwait in early August, also continued their planned training cycle. The soldiers deployed to Kuwait returned home before Christmas.

bat Team spent a week loading vehicles onto flatbed cars at Fort Riley's railhead before last week's deployment to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif..

Before most of Fort Riley awoke, soldiers lined up their vehicles and drove them onto flatbed railcars and guided them into position. The soldiers then went to work on chaining down the equipment for transport. For many of the soldiers this is the end of a process that began more than a month ago when they prepared their vehicles for transport. For the soldiers who crewed the vehicles, there was no price on the importance of their vehicle arriving safely.

Clydesdales visit Fort Riley

The gigantic horses known as the Budweiser Clydesdales, paid a visit to Fort Riley. Approximately

2,200 men, women and children drove out to the Post Exchange to see the eight massive animals. The event was open to all family members. Also, a local beverage store was handing out brochures on the importance of talking to children and teen-agers the importance of knowing the impact alcohol beverages can have on lives.

OCTOBER

Civic leaders visit Bulldog Brigade

Views of the battlefield have changed over the millennia along with the weapons used upon them.

In the days of the Roman Empire, commanders sought out the high ground where they could view skirmishes with an eagle's eye on their objectives. Today, commanders are surrounded by an

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2001 Year In Review



Post/Vanover

Spec. Jerome Eckelburger, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, scouts the shelves at a local department store in Manhattan looking for new toys for Operation Santa Claus.

array of technologically-advanced monitoring and reporting equipment that allows them to track virtually every player on the field.

Civic leaders from Junction City, Chapman and Manhattan, Kan., came to experience both of these views during the battles of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division at the National Training Center. Kansas Representative Jim Rynard and his staff also got a first-hand look at the Army during the visit.

Guests started out with a tour of the “Star Wars” facility. From this technology-laden location, the visitors were able to track the battles between 3rd Brigade and the 1st Armored Division’s Opposition Force. After a briefing by Brig. Gen. James D. Thurman, commanding general of the NTC and Fort Irwin, the band of warrior-watchers headed to the “Box,” where the brigade’s campaign takes place. In the early morning hours, they observed the beginnings of a battle as the 3rd Brigade Combat Team and the 1st Armored Division’s Opposition Force maneuvered into position.

Retention NCO wins III Corps

Whenever the window is open for re-enlistment in the Army, soldiers usually turn to one person to steer them in the right direction . . . a career counselor. One counselor stands above the rest this year. SSgt. Patrick Street, HHC, 14th Infantry Division, and attached to 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, was selected as the career counselor of the year for Fort Riley, and recently for III Corps.

School shows American Spirit

The colors red, white and blue are seen almost everywhere these days. Cars, homes, shirts and just about every other surface is adorned with the nation’s colors. While many are still dealing with their grief, they are also showing their patriotism. Children are not excluded when it comes to showing off their pride for the country. They are also wearing the country’s colors. Children at Custer Hill Elementary did a little more than wear the colors Sept. 26; they became the flag.

“The idea was thought up only a few days before we actually did the project,” said Tim Stuck, student support monitor. The project was to get 224 students, grades

Kindergarten through fifth grade, to sit in an orderly fashion while holding colorful pieces of paper over their heads. When it was completed, the students had worked together to make themselves into a living symbol of freedom.

Bulldogs battle OPFOR

The Bulldog Brigade moved into the Mojave Desert in the most dangerous test of their month-long National Training Center rotation. The Bulldogs of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division armed themselves and took on the live-fire range, which concluded their training. On the range, the Bulldogs’ opponents were pop-up targets armed with MILES lasers to provide a more realistic test of their weaponry and defenses. The battle reinforced the teamwork the crews learned over the course of the rotation. For some of the other assets in the brigade, the training gave their crews the opportunity to realize the power of their weapons systems.

Soldier named JC Big Brother of the Year

Finding things to do with their spare time is a challenge for many single soldiers. One Fort Riley soldier spends his time a little differently than most young singles. He hangs out with an 8 year-old.

PFC Pete Brauer, 82nd Medical Company, is a part of the Junction City Big Brother/Big Sister program with a new recognition for his assistance. He was named Big Brother of the Year. The 26 year-old has only been with the program for a year. Blake, age 8, and Brauer are now as close as, well, brothers. Blake and Brauer do things such as go to museums, go bowling and eating lunch at school together. Although his time here is limited, Brauer is planning on staying in the program for as long as he is here.

MPs protect participants in Bright Star

“Professionals with Pride” is their motto. The 977th Military Police Company from Fort Riley has been in Egypt since Sept. 19 and was responsible for force protection of Mubarak Military City. Besides responsibility for patrolling or guarding the gates of MMC, the 977th also has a Quick Reaction Force for additional force protection. If needed, the QRF will stay in such a spot for up

to 72 hours, until relieved.

Unit leaders taught the MPs to be free thinkers, and a situation might not allow for time to call for higher help, so these soldiers were trained and able to make an assessment on their own.

Visiting VIP

Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Romig, The Judge Advocate General, received a briefing on the capabilities of the Close Combat Tactical Training facility from some of the workers at the CCTT facility. Romig visited Fort Riley Oct. 21-23 as a part of a Legal Operations Review.

NOVEMBER

Chairman of Joint Chiefs visits

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, visited with Christopher Escott, Close Combat Tactical Training senior training facilitator and Maj. Gen. Robert St. Onge Jr., former commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech.) and Fort Riley. Escott described the capabilities of the equipment at the facility and let the Chairman and other VIPs in the simulators to test them out.

Chapel renamed

Ceremonies last summer in Pilsen, Kan., inspired soldiers and leaders across Fort Riley. As the community looked back at the past, a heroic image emerged. Chap. (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun, who gave his life for his country during the Korean War, has touched many in the Fort Riley community since a statue in his honor was unveiled in his hometown in June.

Fort Riley officials and a host of invited guests gathered at Custer Hill Chapel at 4 p.m. Nov. 7 to show their own brand of regard for the man who ministered until his final moments to American prisoners of war. During the dedication ceremony the Custer Hill Chapel, Bldg. 7086, was renamed for Kapaun. The road next to the chapel was also named in his honor.

Post changes command

Cannon thunder and hoof beats roared across Cavalry Parade Field Nov. 7, marking the hail of a new leader and served as a fond farewell to the post’s outgoing commanding general. Fort Riley, the “Cradle of the Cavalry” and home of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech.) turned out on Cavalry Parade Field to welcome Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, who accepted command of the 24th Inf. Div. and Fort Riley from Maj. Gen. Robert St. Onge Jr.

Hamilton’s Own salute battery provided the rumbling cannon fire to start the ceremony. These soldiers, dressed in period clothes from the Revolutionary War, are members of Battery D, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, the oldest continuous Field Artillery Regiment in the Army. In true Cavalry style, a tradition based on the post’s former mission of training mounted cavalry troops, the Fort Riley Honor Guard performed a crowd favorite - the Cavalry Charge.

Lt. Gen. B.B. Bell, commanding general, III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas, presided over the ceremony as the senior reviewing officer.

75th trains reservists

In training, the most elusive and dangerous opponent is known with

reverence as the OPFOR. When it’s the OPFOR’s turn to train, the question is, “Who trains them?” One brigade, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support), took on this question with a two-day OPFOR challenge pitting the best OPFOR squads against each other.

The OPFOR challenge developed because of a need for training doctrine on the training and expectations of the opposition forces divisions, said CSM Daniel Elder, 3rd Brigade, 75th Div. Elder said the competition tested a variety of OPFOR skills from setting up a sniper point to running an eight-mile ruck march. He said the OPFOR challenge is a way to validate OPFOR battle drills and develop a mission essential task list for reserve component OPFOR. Teams from three reserve battalions located at Leavenworth, Kan., Des Moines, Iowa, and St. Louis, Mo., took on the two-day event.

Special Olympics come to Fort Riley

A partnership between Fort Riley’s Custer Hill Bowling Center and Kansas Special Olympics Indoor Games continued Nov. 9-10 when the bowling event opened for a two-day run. More than 750 Special Olympic bowlers took to the center’s 40 lanes for the second year in a row as part of the sports and competition program.

Veterans remembered

Red, white and blue lined the main street of Manhattan Nov. 12, as area community members turned out to remember and celebrate American veterans. The annual Veterans Day Celebration Honor Parade rolled down Poyntz Avenue as Fort Riley soldiers, equipment and color guard proudly marched past citizens waving American flags and cheering their appreciation. Maj. Gen. Thomas F. Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, served as the grand marshal for the Flint Hills Veterans Coalition event.

Hundreds of school children showed their patriotism to the veterans by carrying banners and posters, waving miniature American flags and wearing hats and clothes of red, white and blue. School bands played patriotic songs. On the sidewalk, veterans reminisced with friends and neighbors about their time in service and several proudly wore their old uniforms.

Fort Riley gets in step

A new television program designed to get people “In Step With Fort Riley” began airing on Fox 43 Nov. 18 at 10 a.m.

The Fort Riley Public Affairs Office produces the weekly news and information broadcast in cooperation with Montgomery Communications Inc., based in Junction City. The program is produced much like Army civilian enterprise newspapers. Fort Riley staff produces the content of the program while Montgomery Communications Inc. sells advertising to pay for the airtime. Each week, the program brings a slice-of-life view of the prairie post into thousands of homes. Most cable companies in nearby counties carry Fox 43. Viewers should check their local cable listings as the channel where Fox programs appear varies depending on the cable service and area.

Reserves fill in for MPs

The 6025th Garrison Support Unit stepped in when duty called,

augmenting the 924th Military Police Battalion on Fort Riley. The Reserve unit mobilized less than two weeks after the events of Sept. 11 to fill many of the positions vacated by the 977th MP Company’s deployment to Operation Bright Star.

Soldiers taken care of

No turkey was safe, as soldiers on Fort Riley had a lot to be thankful for over the Thanksgiving holidays. One thing was the dining facilities on post offered them Thanksgiving feasts.

Turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie and all the other goodies, which go along with Thanksgiving feasts were set up for the hungry soldiers to dig in and fill their stomachs. Along with the all the food a person could ever ask for, the four dining facilities competed in a contest to see which had the best decorations in their facility. The winner of the contest was the 1st Brigade Combat Team’s dining facility, Bldg. 7011. They made a display with desert items, fruit and other small displays, which included a tribute to the firefighters of Sept. 11.

DECEMBER

Top soldier, NCO named

Fort Riley’s top soldier and noncommissioned officer were recognized at Riley’s Conference Center by the post’s commanding general and local community members. Spec. Alicia Bodie and SSgt. Mark Powell were announced as Soldier and NCO of the Year respectively. Bodie covers all aspects of a soldier, capturing second place in the 24th Infantry Division boxing tournament and a fourth place in the 937th Engineer Group’s squad stakes competition. Working in a customer service position in 1st Finance’s Debt Management section, Bodie puts the customer first.

Boxing tournament

There have been many big nights in boxing history. Muhamed Ali versus Joe Frazier, “Sugar” Ray Leonard versus “Marvelous” Marvin Haglar, Rocky Marciano versus Joe Louis and Mike Tyson versus Evander Holyfield. At Fort Riley, it was a night lefts, rights, jabs, hooks and uppercuts during the 2001 Fort Riley Post Boxing Tournament at King Field House.

Officer laid to rest

In a year already marred by the tragedies at the World Trade Center and Pentagon, it seemed emergency workers, policemen and military personnel had suffered enough. However, it was another heinous act that took the life of police officer and military retiree Wilson Alex Johnson Dec. 3.

Fort Riley and Junction City came together to honor Johnson at a candlelight vigil Dec. 6 at the Junction City Police Department. Not since 1901 has a J.C. police officer been killed in the line of duty.

Johnson’s Bronze Star, earned during his 20-year Army career, was among the flowers, candles

and momentos covering a table near the flagpole. More than 100 people attended the vigil, which featured bagpipe music, a police reading and comments by officers who had worked with Johnson.

The next morning, Junction City and its closest neighbor, Fort Riley, turned out more than 1,000 souls to bury one of their own. Funeral services were held in Junction City Municipal Building to accommodate the enormous crowds. Burial was at the Fort Riley Post Cemetery.

TF-34 returns

Deployed Fort Riley soldiers came home in time to spend the holiday season with their loved ones after a four-month Operation Desert Spring rotation in Kuwait. Approximately 1,100 members of Task Force 1st Battalion, 3rd Armor began returning to the Home of America’s Army Dec. 1. Each group of 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division returning soldiers had similar receptions.

After arriving at Topeka Forbes Air Field, the weary travelers were bussed to Hanger 81 at the Fort Riley’s Marshall Army Field. The task force troop entered the building marching in single file to Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the USA.” Fan members and soldiers were there to welcome the returning warriors with thunderous applause, hoots and whistles.

Transportation unit named number one

Being the best means sacrificing all else to accomplish the mission, no matter the conditions. Members of 266th Transportation Detachment make that sacrifice every day, winning the Deployment Excellence Award from the Department of the Army for small supporting unit. The detachment is Fort Riley’s mobilization arm, moving men and machines around the world for both training and mission deployment. In action to their deployment mission, the detachment is responsible for training the unit’s on Fort Riley the proper techniques to load equipment by air, rail or any other technique. They are also responsible for clearing off-post convoys, inspecting convoy vehicles before they leave post.